



CBC Newsletter

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for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

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"Out to the Banks"

CBC Winter Meeting—January 26-28, 2007

By Susan Campbell

The Carolina Bird Club winter meeting will be headquartered at Kill Devil Hills on the North Carolina Outer Banks January 26-28, 2007. Registration will begin at the Ramada Inn at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 27th. We are looking forward once again to an action-packed weekend at one of the CBC's most popular meeting locations.

The eastern shore of North Carolina offers outstanding birding, and winter is probably the best season. Some winters (such as 2003 and 2004) have seen large invasions of alcids. We should see all three Scoter species and possibly Long-tailed Duck as well as perhaps Common Eider. We will search for a Ross' Goose among hundreds of Snow Geese. Eurasian Wigeons are winter regulars at Pea Island, and scattered Horned Grebes can be seen from the beach. With any luck we could see Iceland or Glaucous Gull at Cape Point and possibly a Thayer's or California Gull. Although a pelagic trip is being offered, remember that the above species may be seen on shore. Interesting passerine observations have included species such as Ash-throated Flycatcher, Lark Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Lapland Longspur and Dickcissel. We should be able to get good looks at both species of Sharp-tailed Sparrow.

A variety of field trips will be offered; each led by an experienced birder. None will require strenuous walking. Friday field trips are scheduled for the Nags Head/Pea Island area and also at several hot spots convenient to routes leading to the Outer Banks.

Friday night's program will be preceded by a social hour beginning at 6:30 PM hosted by the North Banks Bird Club. At 7:30 PM a representative from the US Fish and

Wildlife Service will welcome the group and provide an update on activities at the local refuges. Our main speaker, Dr. Ted Simons from North Carolina State University (NCSU), will follow with a presentation entitled "10 Years of American Oystercatcher Research on the Outer Banks of North Carolina." NCSU has a long history of conducting shorebird research on the Outer Banks, and Ted will outline the findings relating to oystercatchers and the implications for conservation and management on the seashore. Afterwards information on Saturday's field trips will be provided.

Saturday night's program will be a program by Dr. Stephen J. Dinsmore from Iowa State University. His talk, "Prairie ghosts - Mountain Plovers in the Great Plains" originates from his dissertation work. Many of you may remember that Steve conducted his Master's research through NCSU in the early 1990s on Sanderlings along the Outer Banks. We are certainly looking forward to hearing what he has been up to since he left North Carolina.

The Ramada Plaza Nags Head Beach on the south side of Kill Devil Hills will be our headquarters for the weekend. The hotel is located on the old beach road, state Highway 12 near Milepost 9 1/2. The address is 1701 South Virginia Dare Trail. This Ramada boasts lots of amenities including private balconies, in-room refrigerator and microwave as well as a heated pool and Jacuzzi. It is easily visible from Highway 158 at the Neptune Drive intersection. The hotel has made available special double occupancy rates for CBC members attending our meeting:

CBC Winter Meeting—January 26-28, 2007 (continued)

\$50 per night for dune view and street view rooms and \$70 per night for those overlooking the ocean. You must inform the Ramada that you are with CBC to receive the special rate. For more information, visit <http://www.ramadaplazanagshead.com/>. To make a reservation, call (252) 441-2151 and identify yourself as a CBC meeting participant. **The deadline for reservations is January 12th.** Rooms reserved after this date may or may not be available at the reduced meeting rate.

A \$4.99 breakfast will be available at the hotel beginning at 6:00 AM both Friday and Saturday, and a buffet dinner is planned for Saturday night at 6:30 PM. A vegetarian offering will be available. The cost is \$20.50 per person, including tax and gratuity. This amount must be paid at least 10 days in advance to CBC (along with your event registration). The evening meeting will then follow at 7:30 PM. Please note that our meeting activities, including registration, Friday evening social and Saturday buffet dinner, will take place in the fourth floor meeting area.

In the event the Ramada Inn fills early, there will be a few other motels open including the Quality Inn Sea Oatel, (252-441-7191 or toll free at 800-782-9722) Milepost 16.5 Nags Head, Comfort Inn South Oceanfront Milepost 17 in Nags Head (252-441-6315 or toll free at 866-398-3633) and the Duke of Dare Motel in Manteo (252-473-2175).

Brian Patteson will be offering two all day pelagic trips. There will be a Friday (with no weather date) and a Saturday (Sunday weather date) trip. Cost will be \$135/person with a limit of 20 people per trip. Brian is offering an early booking special of \$125/person for those registering for one or both pelagic trips before December 1. After December 1 the trips will be open to the general public as well as CBC members, and the price will be \$135/person.

The departure point, possibly Wanchese or Hatteras, will be announced prior to the trip based on the weather. Likely species include Manx Shearwater, Northern Fulmar, Red Phalarope, Great Skua, Black-legged Kittiwake, Razorbill, Dovekie, and Atlantic Puffin. Less likely are Black-capped Petrel, Greater Shearwater, Sooty Shearwater, Audubon's Shearwater, Pomarine Jaeger, and Parasitic Jaeger. There should be many Northern Gannets, and we can always hope for Yellow-nosed Albatross, which was seen in early February 2000, and which was seen at Cape Hatteras in April 2004 and 2006. Sometimes participants see thousands of gulls, with Glaucous, Iceland, Thayer's, and California Gulls all having been tallied on pelagic trips here. Additionally, Little Gulls are located on most of the winter trips, and there is a chance to see Humpback Whales and Loggerhead Sea Turtles as

well. Payment must be sent directly to: Brian Patteson, PO Box 772, Hatteras, NC 27943. For more information, check out Brian's web site: <http://www.seabirding.com/> Brian can also be contacted by phone at (252) 986-1363, or e-mail: brian@patteson.com Please remember to indicate on your registration form that you plan to participate in one or both of these trips, even though Brian is handling the reservations.

Your registration packet will contain a list of restaurants open at the time of our meeting. Be aware that at this time of year many shops and restaurants are indeed closed. If your Saturday field trip schedule is such that you will be between Nags Head and Hatteras around midday it is highly advisable that you carry a lunch and drink. Furthermore, the area around each of the coastal wildlife refuges is rather remote so you should plan ahead and have plenty of food and water along while birding these areas.

Registration packets will contain directions to the locations of the field trips offered during the course of the weekend as well as some other hotspots participants may want to visit before or after the meeting. Details on these outlying areas will also be posted before the meeting at the CBC website. You will then be able to access the information so that you can make stops on the way to the Outer Banks if you wish.

Additionally, participants may find it helpful to have *A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina* by John Fussell as well as Mike Tove's *Guide to the Offshore Wildlife of the Northern Atlantic*. As many of you know John and Mike, both CBC members, have spent countless hours on the Outer Banks pursuing birds. Their publications are indispensable to anyone who is serious about getting to know the birdlife of the region.

The weather will undoubtedly make the weekend. It is common knowledge that winter weather on the Outer Banks can be rough. But sometimes the roughest weather can produce the best birds. On the other hand, there are often "blue bird days" in January. So either way the weather will be good. Just be prepared for either situation, meanwhile thanking God there will be no mosquitoes. Well, not many.

The winter Outer Banks meetings are often some of the best attended seasonal meetings, and for good reason. The delicate strand of sand that makes up the "Banks" not only offers superlative birding, but also plenty of great seafood, charming lighthouses, and history.

Any questions or concerns about this meeting should be directed to the meeting coordinators, Ed Toone (910) 686-5035 or Susan Campbell, at (910) 949-3207 or susan@ncaves.com.

Field Trip Schedule

CBC Winter Meeting, Kill Devil Hills, NC

January 26-28, 2007

Schedule

Friday, January 26

6:00 am (approx.) #1 Pelagic trip departs.

En route to Nags Head

9:00 a.m. #2 Goldsboro Sewerage Lagoons
 9:00 a.m. #3 Mattamuskeet NWR
 12:00 noon #4 Pungo NWR
 1:00 p.m. #5 Lake Phelps/Pocosin Lakes NWR
 1:00 p.m. #6 Alligator River NWR

After arrival in Nags Head

1:00 p.m. # 7 Hatteras Point*
 1:00 p.m. # 8 Buxton Woods
 1:00 p.m. #9 Pea Island
 1:30 p.m. #10 Bodie Island/Pea Island
 1:30 p.m. #11 Nag's Head Woods

Saturday, January 27

All-day trips

6:00 a.m. (approx) #12 Pelagic Trip
 7:00 a.m. #13 Hatteras Pt./Hatteras- Ocracoke
 Ferry/Pea Island*
 7:15 a.m. #14 Pea Island/Hatteras Point*
 7:30 a.m. #15 Oregon Inlet/Pea Island/ Hatteras
 Point*

Half-day Morning

7:00 a.m. #16 Oregon Inlet/North Pond
 7:15 a.m. #17 Bodie Island/Pea Island
 7:30 a.m. #18 Nags Head/Wanchese

Half-day Afternoon

1:00 p.m. #19 Bodie Island/Pea Island
 1:30 p.m. #20 Wanchese/Nags Head
 1:30 p.m. #21 Alligator River NWR

Sunday, January 28

7:30 a.m. #22 Palmetto-Peartree Preserve /
 J. Morgan Futch Game Lands

*Participants with 4-WD vehicles appreciated. Please specify on your registration form

Please note that the dates and location of the spring 2007 meeting have changed from mid-May at Flat Rock, NC to Hendersonville, NC, May 4-6.

For up-to-date information on Carolina Bird Club events, visit us on the web at:
www.carolinabirdclub.org

New Members

Lee Allen
 Cary, NC

Shelby Birch
 Southport, NC

Carl Darden
 Greenville, NC

Amy Dobson
 Lexington, SC

Morgie Duke
 Raleigh, NC

Robert Grady
 Raleigh, NC

Frank Hampshire
 Chapel Hill, NC

Tonya Hogan
 Asheville, NC

Greg Hudson
 Elizabeth City, NC

Drew Lanham
 Clemson, SC

Jonathan and Mariana Licht-
 man
 Raleigh, NC

Jack Ogburn
 Moravian Falls, NC

Aaron Steed
 Castle Hayne, NC

Francie Troy
 Blowing Rock, NC

Virginia Wheeler

Bryson City, NC

Robin Wood
 Hampstead, NC



H. Douglas Pratt

Winter Meeting Field Trip Descriptions



This meeting's field trip leaders are not just guides familiar with the geography, but are also experts who will make the experience more rewarding. Trips 2-5 listed below for Friday are to birding hot spots which are fairly conveniently located in relation to routes leading to Kill Devil Hills. Trips 7, 9 and 10 are recommended for those taking Saturday's pelagic trip.

***Important Notice:** South Pond on Pea Island is usually off-limits to everyone except National Wildlife Refuge Personnel. We are privileged to make several visits to South Pond because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing us with designated guides at the times specified in the trip descriptions below. Going into South Pond at any other time is strictly forbidden. Also, as a matter of ethics, it is requested that Saturday morning birding at Hatteras Point be limited to those participating in organized, scheduled trips. People birding "on their own" could easily spook the gull flocks and spoil the day for others. They should plan to go in the afternoon.

Friday Field Trips

Trip No. 1: Pelagic Trip. See the details outlined above. Departure point and time for the *Stormy Petrel* will be dependent on the weather. If the trip must be cancelled due to high seas, Saturday will be the alternate day for the trip.

Trip No. 2: Goldsboro Sewerage Lagoons. This area is predictably productive in winter. There will be a good variety of waterfowl, and it is the only place in North Carolina where Eared Grebes are reliably present. For those coming on Highway 70 from the west, after reaching Goldsboro, turn right onto Highway 117 South. Proceed 3.3 miles and turn left onto SR 581 (Arrington Bridge Rd.) and cross the Neuse River at 1.5 mi. Immediately past the bridge, turn off on a drive to the right where you will meet your guide. There should be plenty of birds to scope out between 9:00 a.m. until noon. Please note that participants will be required to adhere to the facilities policies and sign a release form prior to entry.

Trip No. 3: Mattamuskeet NWR. Mattamuskeet is legendary in regard to the variety and numbers of wintering waterfowl. Also in recent years, quite a variety of Passerines have been found lingering in the thick vegetation at the refuge-especially along the causeway across the lake. Either species of eagle is a possibility as well. Your trip leader will meet you at 9 a.m. at the refuge headquarters (located along the entrance road off of Highway 94 just north of the intersection with Highway 264; look for the refuge sign just before 94 crosses the lake).

Trip No. 4: Pungo National Wildlife Refuge. With any luck, the huge flock of Snow Geese will be in the fields near Pungo Lake, and among them is the best chance of spotting a Ross's or a Greater White-fronted Goose-both North Carolina rarities. Golden Eagles have also been found at Pungo. Last year a small group of "Cackling" Geese were found here as well. Keep your eyes peeled for black bears too. It may be a good idea to catch lunch in Washing-

ton, NC before proceeding east on highway 264 to the community of Pantego, where you will meet your guide at the corner of Highways 264 and 99 North for a 12:00 noon departure.

Trip No. 5: Lake Phelps/Pocosin Lakes NWR. Meet your guide at 1:00 p.m. at the Tyson Farms grain elevators. This spot is reached by turning to the right (south) off US 64 at Roper onto Newland Road (SR 112) and going about seven miles to the intersection of SR 1183. The field edges in this area can produce some of the rarer sparrows. Lapland Longspurs have been found, and Lake Phelps often had a flock of Common Mergansers. This area is also a winter home to Short-eared Owls; but staying until dusk to see the owls will cause one to be rather late reaching Kill Devil Hills, 80+ miles distant.

Trip No. 6: Alligator River NWR. Meet at 1:00 p.m. at the paved parking lot where Milltail Road meets US 64 in mainland Dare County, about three miles west of the new bridge over Pamlico Sound. Bird the Creef Cut Trail to an observation platform overlooking the wildlife management area. The thick vegetation along the roads through the refuge has produced a good number of rarer sparrows the past few winters. Drive Long Curve Road and keep your eyes peeled for possible vagrant flycatchers such as Western or Ash-throated, which have both been found here in recent years. Search carefully and you may spot a Rough-legged Hawk amongst the Northern Harriers. Also there is a good chance of seeing a Short-eared Owl along Milltail Road close to dusk.

Trip No. 7: Hatteras Point. Meet your guide at the southwestern end of the new lighthouse parking lot at 1:00 p.m. The convoy will cover the Point Campground and the Salt Pond in addition to the beach. Extensive driving should result in an assortment of interesting gulls, shorebirds and waterfowl. A Peregrine Falcon is often present in or on the dunes during the winter months. Bird Pea Island on the return to Nag's Head.

Trip No. 8: Buxton Woods. Meet your guide at the Buxton Park Service Ranger Station at 1:00 p.m. You will bird on foot along trails and roads around The Point. Wrens, sparrows, and warblers as well as waterfowl and wading birds abound in these thickly vegetated areas. A variety of raptors and woodpeckers may be found at the edges and Red-breasted Nuthatch is possible in the old loblolly pine stands.

Trip No. 9: Pea Island (South Pond and North Pond). Leave the Ramada Inn parking lot at 1:00 p.m. and caravan to Pea Island down to the entrance road to South Pond to be met by a US Fish & Wildlife Service designated guide before proceeding further. Do not park on the soft highway shoulders unless driving a 4-WD and do not enter until the official guide is present. See admonition above under "Notice." After birding South Pond, turn around and bird North Pond dikes. If time permits, stop by parking lot at south side of Oregon Inlet Bridge or Bodie Island pond on return to the hotel.

Trip No. 10: Bodie Island/Pea Island. Meet at the parking lot at Bodie Island Lighthouse at 1:30 p.m. and survey the Bodie Island Pond for shorebirds, waders and waterfowl. Walk the gravel roads and trails to look for nuthatches, wintering warblers and other Pas-

Winter Meeting Field Trip Descriptions (continued)

serines. A pair of Great Horned Owls may be present in the tall pines west of the lighthouse. Cross Oregon Inlet and go to the parking lot at the old Coast Guard station to look for Purple Sandpipers and sea ducks. Then head to the north and south dikes at North Pond.

Trip No. 11: Nags Head Woods. Depart the hotel parking lot at 1:30 p.m. for the Nature Conservancy's Nags Head Woods Ecological Preserve. The 1,200 acre property is one of the largest and most well-preserved maritime forests remaining in the east. Unique to the barrier island ecosystem, it is home to numerous species of reptiles and amphibians, mammals and invertebrates in addition to birds. Hike the trails looking for wintering woodland birds in some of the oldest and largest trees on the island. You will also have the unique opportunity to bird the open dunes and intra-dunal ponds and wetlands.

Saturday Field Trips

Trip No. 12: Pelagic Trip. See the details outlined above. Departure point and time for the *Stormy Petrel* will be dependent on the weather. If the trip must be cancelled due to high seas, there will be no alternate date.

Trip No. 13: Hatteras Point/Hatteras-Ocracoke Ferry/Pea Island. (All-day) Depart the hotel parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and reassemble at the southwestern end of the new lighthouse parking lot (east of Buxton—see map in registration packet) at 8:00 a.m. to bird Hatteras Point (4-WD only on the beach). There is the possibility of rare gulls on the point and a good variety of waterfowl on the salt pond. Catch the ferry from Hatteras Village to Ocracoke and try to turn around and return on the same ferry. Should see a variety of birds, including perhaps Brant, Oldsquaw and Red-throated Loon, from ferry. Bird North Pond and south side of Oregon Inlet in the afternoon.

Trip No. 14: Pea Island/Hatteras Point/Pea Island. (All-day) Depart the hotel parking lot at 7:15 a.m. and proceed to South Pond. See admonition under "Notice" above. Depart South Pond in time to arrive at the southwestern end of the new lighthouse parking lot (east of Buxton—see map in registration packet) at 10:30 a.m. and bird Hatteras Point. After a lunch break return to bird North Pond and Bodie Island pond in the afternoon.

Trip No. 15: Oregon Inlet/Pea Island/Hatteras Point. (All-day) Depart hotel parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and bird north and south dikes of North Pond. Meet guide at South Pond at 10:00 a.m. See admonition under "Notice." Depart South Pond in time to arrive at the southwestern end of the new lighthouse parking area (east of Buxton) by 12:30 p.m. to bird Hatteras Point. Return north to park at the old Coast Guard station parking lot and bird south of Oregon Inlet.

Trip No. 16: Oregon Inlet/North Pond. (Half-day) Depart hotel parking lot at 7:00 a.m. and go to old Coast Guard Station parking lot to bird the south side of Oregon Inlet including the breakwater for Purple Sandpiper, eiders, etc.). Then bird north and south dikes of North Pond. Oceanwatch opposite the North Pond visitor's center.

Trip No. 17: Bodie Island/Pea Island. (Half-day) Depart hotel parking lot at 7:15 a.m. and bird Bodie Island pond and trails. Proceed to the marina and south side of Oregon Inlet to look for sparrows and wading birds in the marsh. Bird North Pond until about noon.

Trip No. 18: Nags Head/Wanchese. (Half-day) Assemble at hotel parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and walk over to the beach side to ocean watch. Early a.m. is the most productive time for loons, grebes (possibly Red-necked), gannets, scoters, etc. Then drive to Wanchese Harbor where your experienced guide will help you polish your gull id skills. The group may make another stop or two at local hotspots in between.

Trip No. 19: Bodie Island/Pea Island. (Half-day) Same as Trip No. 17 departing from the hotel parking lot at 1:00 p.m.

Trip No. 20: Wanchese/Nags Head. (Half-day) Same as Trip No. 18 departing from the hotel parking lot at 1:30 p.m.

Trip No. 21: Alligator River NWR. (Half-day) Same as Trip No. 6 departing from the hotel parking lot at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday Field Trips

Trip No. 22: Palmetto-Peartree Preserve and J. Morgan Futch Game Lands. (half day) Depart the hotel parking lot at 7:30 a.m. and head west across the Pamlico Sound and Alligator River to the NC Wildlife Commission's Futch Game Lands. Walk the dikes to survey the waterfowl resting there as well as sort through sparrow flocks in the marshy areas adjacent to the impoundments. Along with a few species of wading birds and shorebirds, Orange-crowned Warbler can often be found here. Drive a short distance to The Conservation Fund's Palmetto-Peartree Preserve on the Albemarle Sound to search for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

Other Sunday trips to be announced based on Saturday's results.

A special Digiscoping Seminar will be held Saturday at 2 p.m. in the host hotel's meeting room. Stop by to learn new how to take pictures with a spotting scope (or even binoculars!) and a digital camera. Even if you are familiar with the process, you may pick up pointers on improving focus, depth of field, and overall picture quality!

Carolina Bird Club Announces 2007 Bonus Field Trips

The Carolina Bird Club plans a number of exciting field trips for 2007 including a visit to Southeastern Arizona at the peak of hummingbird migration, a tour of the Lower Rio Grande River Valley, and a complement to the 2006 Rocky Mountain trip dubbed appropriately "The Other Side of the Rockies!"

Closer to home, day trips in North Carolina include the Holly Shelter/Topsail Beach area, Shackleford

Banks, Brunswick County, and the Blue Ridge Mountains. In South Carolina look for a spring visit to the Dobbins Farm in March. For the traveler looking to visit spectacular Costa Rica, Simon Thompson of Ventures Birding and Nature Tours offers a special trip for CBC members to enjoy the wonders of the tropics with a chance to see spectacular species like Resplendent Quetzal, Three-wattled Bellbird, Sunbittern and Scarlet Macaw.

West Slope of the Rocky Mountains May 26-June 3, 2007



Join members of the CBC as we explore "The Other Side of the Rockies!" This special field trip, scheduled for May 26-June 3, 2007, is a bookend to last year's trip to the east slope of the Rocky Mountains. The 2007 trip will visit west slope sites in Utah, Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming to search for a variety of nesting birds and migrants. The itinerary includes spectacular Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks as well as Bear Island Migratory Bird Refuge, Camas NWR, Red Rock Lakes NWR, the National Elk Refuge, Dinosaur National Monument, and the Wasatch-Cache National Forest, and others. Target birds include: Trumpeter Swan, Barrow's Goldeneye, Sandhill

Crane, Calliope and Black-chinned Hummingbirds, Olive-sided, Dusky, Cordilleran and Hammond's Flycatchers, Sage Thrasher, Plumbeous Vireo, Juniper Titmouse, Pine Grosbeak and Black Rosy-Finch.

This trip will be limited to 10 participants. A final budget will be determined by December 31; however, the initial estimate of cost (excluding roundtrip airfare to Salt Lake City) is \$1,100 with a single supplement of \$200. A deposit of \$150 will be due by January 31, with the balance due by April 1. Call Dana at 630-980-1049 or e-mail at hq@carolinabirdclub.org to establish your slot on this trip.

Southeast Arizona August 6-12, 2007



The Carolina Bird Club is offering a Southeast Arizona trip in 2007, scheduled for August 6-12, the height of the hummingbird migration. Sites visited will include: Saguaro National Park, Catalina State Park, California Gulch, Madera Canyon, Patagonia-Sonoita Creek Preserve, Patagonia State Park, San Pedro River, the Chiricahua Mountains and Rustler Park area, and the Cave Creek/Portal area. We will also visit Ramsey, Miller, Garden, Ashe, and Carr Canyons plus other hummingbird hot spots between Sierra Vista and Bisbee. Spaces have been reserved for us right in Madera Canyon and Portal. Target birds will include: twelve or more species of hummingbirds; Five-striped, Black-chinned, and Rufous-crowned Sparrows; Montezuma Quail; Common Poorwill; Varied Bunting; Hepatic and Flame-colored

Tanagers; Arizona Woodpecker; Lucy's, Red-faced, Hermit, Rufous-capped, and Virginia's Warblers; Painted Redstart; Elegant Trogon; Greater Pewee; Black-capped Gnatcatcher; Thick-billed Kingbird; Gray Hawk; Rose-breasted Becard; Yellow-eyed Junco; Bridled Titmouse; and Bendire's and Crissal Thrashers plus many other area specialties.

This trip will be limited to 12 participants. A final budget will be determined by February 28th; however, the initial estimate of cost (excluding transportation to Tucson and your meals) is \$925 with a single supplement of \$200. A deposit of \$150 will be due by January 31, with the balance due by June 6th. Call Dana at 630-980-1049 or e-mail at hq@carolinabirdclub.org to establish your slot on this trip.

Spring in the Rio Grande Valley April 7-15, 2007



The Rio Grande Valley in Texas—from the beaches of South Padre Island through the subtropical forests of the lower valley, to the more arid uplands around Falcon Dam—is one of the two or three best birding areas in the whole United States. The Valley boasts a long list of specialties that are rare or non-existent outside of South Texas.

We can expect to see: Least Grebe, Neotropic Cormorant, Fulvous Whistling Duck, White-tailed Kite, Gray, Harris's and White-tailed Hawks, Crested Caracara, Plain Chachalaca, Snowy Plover, Inca Dove, White-tipped Dove, Green Parakeet, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Green and Ringed Kingfisher, Green Jay, Chihuahuan Raven, Cactus Wren, Long-billed Thrasher, Olive Sparrow, Altamira Oriole, and many more. With luck we might find: Muscovy Duck, Hook-billed Kite, Red-billed Pigeon, Groove-billed Ani, Ferruginous Pygmy-Owl, Brown Jay, Tamaulipas Crow, Clay-colored Robin, Tropical Parula,

Audubon's Oriole and White-collared Seedeater.

Our trip will commence and end in Harlingen and we'll have 7 whole birding days to hit all the "hot" spots in the Valley. There will be one hotel change during the trip, minimizing packing and un-packing.

Trip leaders are Linda Kolb and Bruce Smithson. Attendance is limited to 10 people plus the leaders. Estimated price of \$1015.00 includes lodging, group vehicles (2), entrance fees, and guide service. A single supplement in the range of \$200 – \$250 is expected. Participants are responsible for the cost of airfare to Texas and all meals. A final price will be determined by January 31, 2007 and an initial deposit of \$150.00 is due by that date as well.

Contact Dana Harris at 630-980-1049 or e-mail at hq@carolinabirdclub.org to establish your slot on this trip.

Dobbins Farm/Townville, SC March 11, 2007

Leader: Linda Kolb Limit: 15 participants
Cost: \$10.00

Come join us for a taste of spring in upstate South Carolina. The Dobbins Farm area can be very productive for waterfowl, wintering species and migrants, producing rarities on a more or less regular basis. While we cannot guarantee anything unusual, we should find plenty of sparrows, ducks and early spring migrants in this "bird rich" area.

Participants will meet at 7:00 am at the Townville Post Office parking lot. The trip will include the ponds of Dobbins Farm, the Beaver Creek WMA and the grounds of the Tokeena Beagle Club. The beagle club has planted many acres for birds and wildlife and has given us permission to walk this area.

Contact Linda Kolb at Rapahana4@hotmail.com or 864-972-1180 for more information. Contact Dana Harris at 630-980-1049 or e-mail at hq@carolinabirdclub.org to sign up.

Holly Shelter/Topsail Beach, NC February 17, 2007

Leader: Bruce Smithson Limit: 15 participants
Cost: \$10.00

This trip will begin at the Holly Shelter Game Land entrance near Hampstead, NC, north of Wilmington. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot of the Topsail Baptist Church on U.S. 17, 4.4 miles north of the NC 210/US 17 intersection in Hampstead.

We expect to see Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, nuthatches, Pine Warblers and more, with an outside chance to find Bachman's and/or Henslow's Sparrows. After our search of Holly Shelter, we will drive north to Topsail Island where we'll scan the ocean for loons, grebes, sea ducks and gannets, and hope for something unusual. Also expect Sedge and Marsh Wrens as well as Swamp, Savannah, Seaside, and Sharp-tailed Sparrows.

Contact the trip leader at brucesmithson@netscape.net or (910) 799-5083 for more info and space availability before sending in registration form/check.

Venture to the Rainforests and Cloudforests of Costa Rica

April 1-13, 2007

Join a special exploration of Costa Rica especially designed for the CBC by Member and Ventures Owner, Simon Thompson. Costa Rica is a birding paradise, where beginning and experienced birders alike can enjoy tropical Central American birding at its very best. Highlights could include Resplendent Quetzal, Three-wattled Bellbird, Scarlet Macaw and dozens of hummingbirds. During this 12 day Venture to Costa Rica, we will have time to visit a variety of habitats in several areas of the country and a chance to see over 300 species of birds.

We will visit Monteverde (cloud forest), Cerro de la Muerte (highland forest), Virgen del Socorro (mid-elevation forest), La Selva (Caribbean lowlands), and Carara (moist western lowlands). By staying two or more nights at each location we will be able to thoroughly explore each area we visit, and spend prime-time birding in the early morning and enjoy optional "owling" at night. Add to this Costa Rica's spectacular scenery, a wealth of tropical flora and butterflies, and colorful "Tico" culture and you have the ingredients

for a truly outstanding natural history Venture.

A detailed itinerary and partial list of expected species can be found at the CBC website on the Bonus Trips page, www.carolinabirdclub.org

The cost of the Costa Rica Venture is \$ 2,850 from San Jose, Costa Rica (based on double occupancy, single room \$285). The price includes all ground transportation, meals, service charges, entrance fees & gratuities (except for leader & driver/guides), information packet & bird check-list, leader/guide service throughout, and a \$50 per person donation to the Carolina Bird Club. Not included are alcoholic beverages, laundry, and other items of a personal nature.

Please contact the Ventures office to register. Your place on this Venture will be reserved as soon as a deposit of \$300 payable to Ventures, Inc. has been received. This Venture is limited to 12 participants.

To register for the trip, or for additional information, please contact Simon Thompson at 866 253-4247, 828-253-4247, or Travel@birdventures.com.

CBC Nags Head and Bonus Day Trip Registration Form

Name (s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day Phone _____ Evening Phone _____ Email _____

Enclosed is my check for _____ member (\$15) registration (s), _____ nonmember (\$20) registration (s), _____ Sat. buffet dinners (\$20.50), _____ Dobbins Farm day trip(s) (\$10), _____ Holly Shelter/Topsail day trip(s) (\$10). My total is \$ _____ for the above registrations. Meeting registration at the door costs \$25. I have a 4WD vehicle _____

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trips leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature _____ Date _____ Signature _____ Date _____

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to: CBC, 353 Montabello, Bloomingdale, IL 60108.

____ Please update my membership record with this address information.

Please indicate by number your field trip choices:

Fri. AM _____ Fri. PM _____

Sat. AM _____ Sat. PM _____

Sunday _____

Christmas Bird Counts By Date

Plan to participate in one or more "CBCs" this winter season!

Harris Neck	GA	12/15/2006	Dot Bambach	912-598-3764	dotbam@bellsouth.net
Highlands	NC	12/15/2006	Edwin Poole	828-526-2775	kaywick@principia.edu
Cleveland Cty.	NC	12/16/2006	Jo Ann Martin	828-453-7400	jamloon@bellsouth.net
Greensboro	NC	12/16/2006	Elizabeth Link	336-273-4672	baddogi@yahoo.com
Kitty Hawk	NC	12/16/2006	Jeff Lewis	N/A	jlewis_obx@yahoo.com
Lower Saluda	SC	12/16/2006	Jason Giovannone	N/A	buteo2808@hotmail.com
Raleigh	NC	12/16/2006	John Connors	919-733-7450	john.connors@ncmail.net
Raven Rock	NC	12/16/2006	Paul Hart	N/A	paul.hart@ncmail.net
Wayne Cty.	NC	12/16/2006	Eric Dean	919-736-7264	wolfpackdeans@earthlink.net
Beaufort Cty.	NC	12/17/2006	Emily Albers	252-964-2192	N/A
Congaree Swamp	SC	12/17/2006	John Grego	N/A	jrgrego@mindspring.com
Henderson Cty.	NC	12/17/2006	Wayne Forsythe	828-697-6628	wforsythe@mchsi.com
Lake Norman	NC	12/17/2006	Taylor Piephoff	704-545-2314	piephoff@aol.com
Morehead City	NC	12/17/2006	John Fussell	N/A	jfuss@clis.com
Pee Dee	SC	12/17/2006	David C. McLean, Jr.	843-853-7084	dcmclean@gmail.com
Southern Pines	NC	12/17/2006	Susan Campbell	910-949-3207	susan@ncaves.com
Aiken	SC	12/23/2006	Calvin Zippler	N/A	zipplerc@bellsouth.net
Tryon	NC	12/23/2006	Simon Thompson	828-253-4247	simont@charter.net
York/Rock Hill	SC	12/23/2006	Bill Hilton Jr.	803-684-5852	hilton@hiltonpond.org
Cape Hatteras	NC	12/27/2006	Pat Neal	252-995-4777	topatneal@aol.com
Bodie-Pea Island	NC	12/28/2006	Paul Sykes	706-769-9436	paul_sykes@usgs.gov
Lake Mattamuskeet	NC	12/29/2006	Allen Bryan	804-740-8953	nshrike@comcast.net
Portsmouth Is.	NC	12/29/2006	Peter Vankevich	252-929-2539	pvank@netacc.net
Spartanburg	SC	12/29/2006	Lyle Campbell	N/A	lcampbell@uscupstate.edu
Balsam	NC	12/30/2006	Bob Olthoff	828-627-2547	robcar@asap-com.com
Grandfather Mt.	NC	12/30/2006	Curtis Smalling	828-265-0198	csmalling@audubon.org
North Greenville	SC	12/30/2006	J.B. Hines	864-579-5854	jbhines3@chesnet.net
Ocracoke	NC	12/30/2006	Peter Vankevich	252-929-2539	pvank@netacc.net
Santee NWR	SC	12/30/2006	Robin Carter	N/A	rcarter@sc.rr.com
Savannah	GA	12/30/2006	Dot Bambach	912-598-3764	dotbam@bellsouth.net
Stone Mountain	NC	12/30/2006	Guy McGrane	336-973-8343	badgerboy@wilkes.net
Wilmington	NC	12/30/2006	Sam Cooper	910-799-3825	dmcooper2@juno.com
Charleston	SC	12/31/2006	Burton Moore	843-853-1100	bmoore@audubonart.com
Greenville	NC	12/31/2006	Dr. Veronica Pantelidis	252-758-7828	pantelidisv@ecu.edu
Southport	NC	12/31/2006	Greg Massey	N/A	gregmassey_2@yahoo.com
Alligator River NWR	NC	1/1/2007	Jeff Lewis	N/A	jlewis_obx@yahoo.com
Buncombe Cty.	NC	1/1/2007	Steve Semanchuk	828-645-9919	hamhed@buncombe.main.nc.us
Lake Wateree	SC	1/3/2007	Donna Slyce	N/A	pine.siskin@hotmail.com
Columbia	NC	1/5/2007	Robin Carter	N/A	rcarter@sc.rr.com

The NC Birding Trail Wants to Hear From You! By Salinda Daley

The NC Birding Trail is conducting an on-line survey in an effort to gather information about bird watchers in North Carolina and begin to track bird watching trends across the state over time. If you are a bird watcher, we want to hear from you! Our survey consists of 27 brief questions related to your bird watching activities. The time estimated to complete this survey is 10 minutes. The following web address will take you directly to the on-line survey:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=217082404635>

We appreciate your participation in this study. All information you provide will be treated anonymously. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at info@ncbirdingtrail.org.



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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Hendersonville, NC May 4-6, 2007
Santee, SC Fall 2007

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srharris@mindspring.com

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919-779-2826, sshultz@nc.rr.com

Submission deadlines are due the 1st of January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Headquarters Secretary, Dana Harris, Bloomington, IL

630-453-8270, srharris@mindspring.com

Rare Bird Alert: 704-332-BIRD

CBC Website: www.carolinabirdclub.org

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